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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Identical letters dated 19 March 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on the holding of the presidential elections of the Russian Federation in Georgia's occupied territories, dated 18 March 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Elene **Agladze**
Chargé d'affaires
Deputy Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 19 March 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on holding the Presidential Elections of the Russian Federation in Georgia's occupied territories

18.03.2018 — The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia condemns holding the Presidential Elections of the Russian Federation in the occupied territories of Georgia on 18 March 2018, where 33 polling stations were illegally opened. This is a clear demonstration of the ongoing occupation of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions and represents yet another step towards their factual annexation by the Russian Federation.

The Russian Federation holds its parliamentary and presidential elections in Georgia's occupied territories in the circumstances, when the population remained in Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions have been subject of illegal and forceful mass passportization implemented by Moscow since 2000s, and hundreds of thousands of IDPs and refugees expelled from those regions as a result of ethnic cleansing are still deprived of the right to return to their homes.

With such actions the Russian Federation fully disregards the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act, and blatantly violates the fundamental norms and principles of international law, such as sovereignty and territorial integrity, inviolability of internationally recognized borders and non-interference in the internal affairs of another state.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia appeals to the international community to give a due assessment to the illegal actions of the Russian Federation in the occupied regions of Georgia that undermine the international law and rules-based international order.